

SRP Statements to the Camera for *Our Town*

Industrial Revolution in America Born in Carbondale

The industrial revolution in America was born in Carbondale, on October 9, 1829, when the first cut of Delaware & Hudson Gravity Railroad coal cars, loaded with mass produced anthracite coal, headed up Plane No. 1 out of Carbondale for Honesdale and to market in New York City.

First Anthracite Shaft Mine in America in Carbondale

The first anthracite shaft mine in America was opened in Carbondale, in June 1831, under the direction of Archibald Law, the Chief Mining Engineer of the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company. This remarkable portrait of Archibald Law, who was Scottish by birth, was recently donated to the Historical Society by the Law family of Phoenix, Arizona.

First Million Dollar Company in America

Maurice and William Wurts, dry goods merchants from Philadelphia, together with the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company, created a mining, transportation, and marketing system that was the first million-dollar enterprise in the private sector in America.

The Anthracite Fields of Northeastern Pennsylvania

Carbondale is located at the northern end of the Northern Coal Field, which extends 53 miles from Forest City to Nanticoke. It encompasses 176 square miles, and is the deepest of the four coal fields in Northeastern Pennsylvania, where three-fourths of the anthracite coal in the world is found, in 18 workable seams, some as deep as 2,100 feet. The four coal fields of northeastern Pennsylvania together encompass 484 square miles.

We've Got a Lot Going For Us Today

The City of Carbondale has a lot going for it these days. It has good schools, affordable housing, excellent recreational facilities in an around the community, a world-class YMCA, a multi-million dollar hotel now under construction on Main Street, enlightened community leaders who are committed to building a future for

the city—and much more. At the same time there is a concerted effort being made to develop heritage tourism in our community, based on our rich railroad and mining history.

Carbondale's History

The Carbondale Historical Society and Museum is an educational and historical membership organization whose mission is to record, gather, and preserve the history of the city of Carbondale and the surrounding area. Through its genealogical and local history research center and exhibition galleries on the third floor of Carbondale City hall (listed in the National Register of Historic Places on January 6, 1983) and through an annual series of public lectures, programs, exhibitions, and commemorative ceremonies, in the community and in the public schools, the Society, at the same time, interprets and makes accessible to the public the City's rich, diverse, and unique history and heritage.

Ethnic Diversity

One of Carbondale's great strengths is its ethnic diversity. Throughout the 19th century and well into the 20th century, people from all over Western and Eastern Europe came to Carbondale and the Lackawanna Valley to begin new lives for themselves and their children. Life then was not easy, but it was good, and the quality of the lives of those ancestors of ours was good, very good. We owe them a lot.

Carbondale's Welsh Roots

Carbondale has very deep Welsh roots which were established in the early years of the nineteenth century when anthracite mining in America began here. To secure the expertise needed to establish shaft mines and to conduct deep underground mining, the D&H recruited, in 1830 and 1832, 90 Welsh miners and their families to come to Carbondale. The legacy of those pioneer Welsh settlers here is commemorated today with an annual Saint David's Day dinner in Carbondale.